REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, applicant has amended each of claims 5, 7, 10, 13, 15 and 18 to specify that either the acrylic or methyl methacrylate resin base are aqueous and that the zinc particles are an aqueous dispersion. Support for such limitations can be found in the original disclosure, for example, in the examples; See, Example 1, beginning in the middle of page 4 of the specification.

Although applicant appreciates the withdrawal of several previous rejections, applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are clearly patentable over the cited prior art applied in the rejections.

For example, with regard to the newly made rejection of claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaw (U.S. Patent 4,379,822) in view of Sugimoto et al (U.S. Patent 5,981,048), amended claims 5 and 7 clearly specify that the methyl methacrylate is an aqueous form as is the aqueous dispersion of zinc oxide particles.

As the Examiner recognizes, Shaw teaches a paper layer consisting of a hydrophobic thermoplastic film-forming resin.

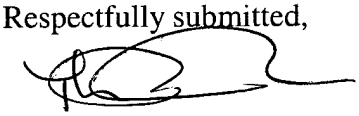
It is clear that the amended claims are neither anticipated nor made obvious by a hydrophobic film-forming resin. Accordingly, the combination of Shaw, together with Sugimoto et al cannot possibly establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claimed invention.

With regard to the repeated rejections in which one or more claims were rejected over the combination of Keough in view of Sugimoto or, alternatively, of Keough in view of Sugimoto and Felter as noted above, Sugimoto teaches a hydrophobic resin material, e.g., a

polypropyleneor other olefinic thermoplastic melt whereas, in the claimed invention, the methyl methacrylate or acrylic resin base is in aqueous form. Moreover, the dispersion of zinc oxide particles are also in an aqueous dispersion, both of which would be incompatible with the olefinic thermoplastic hydrophobic resin base of Sugimoto.

Thus, because the Examiner deems it necessary to add Sugimoto to make his *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claimed invention, the presence of the olefinic thermoplastic resin of Sugimoto would not have been an obvious modification of the prior art in view of the nature of the resin base of Sugimoto. For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of all rejections and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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